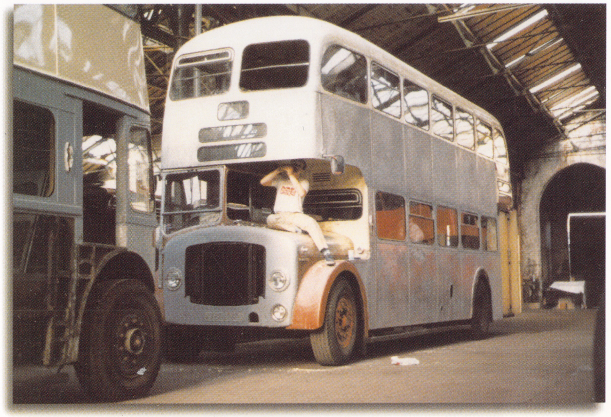
874 is garaged at the Sheffield Bus Museum, which is housed in part of the former Tinsley Tram Sheds. These tram sheds were the first built in Sheffield and date back to 1873. Some twenty preserved vehicles both local and from further afield are exhibited in this award winning museum that holds regular open days.



874 undergoing extensive restoration in 1988. (SBMT Archive)

The AEC Alexander Group has an ongoing programme of maintenance, designed to keep 874 mechanically sound and in exhibition condition. The third repaint of the bus was completed in 2003, representing the Sheffield livery used when our vehicle was new to service in the city.

17
HILLSBOROUGH
FIRTH PARK
SHEFFIELD
7874 WJ

The repaint required removal of much of the exterior paneling for inspection and where necessary replacement. In recent years re-upholstery of both the upper and lower deck seating has been completed, along with an extensive mechanical overhaul.

Our group consists of people from different walks of life and age ranges, the common purpose being continued preservation of this important piece of local transport history in a roadworthy, presentable condition for all to enjoy.

FACT FILE:
7874 WJ
AEC Regent V (2D3RA686)
Alexander (5895) H37/32R
Sheffield Transport 874
New: 4/60 Withdrawn 4/76

HILLSBOROUGH
FIRTH PARK
17
7874 WJ

The interior and exterior of 874 taken in August 2003. (Mike Greenwood)

For more information about the
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Email: AEC7874WJ@aol.com

Visit our website at
http://members.aol.com/AEC7874WJ/7874/

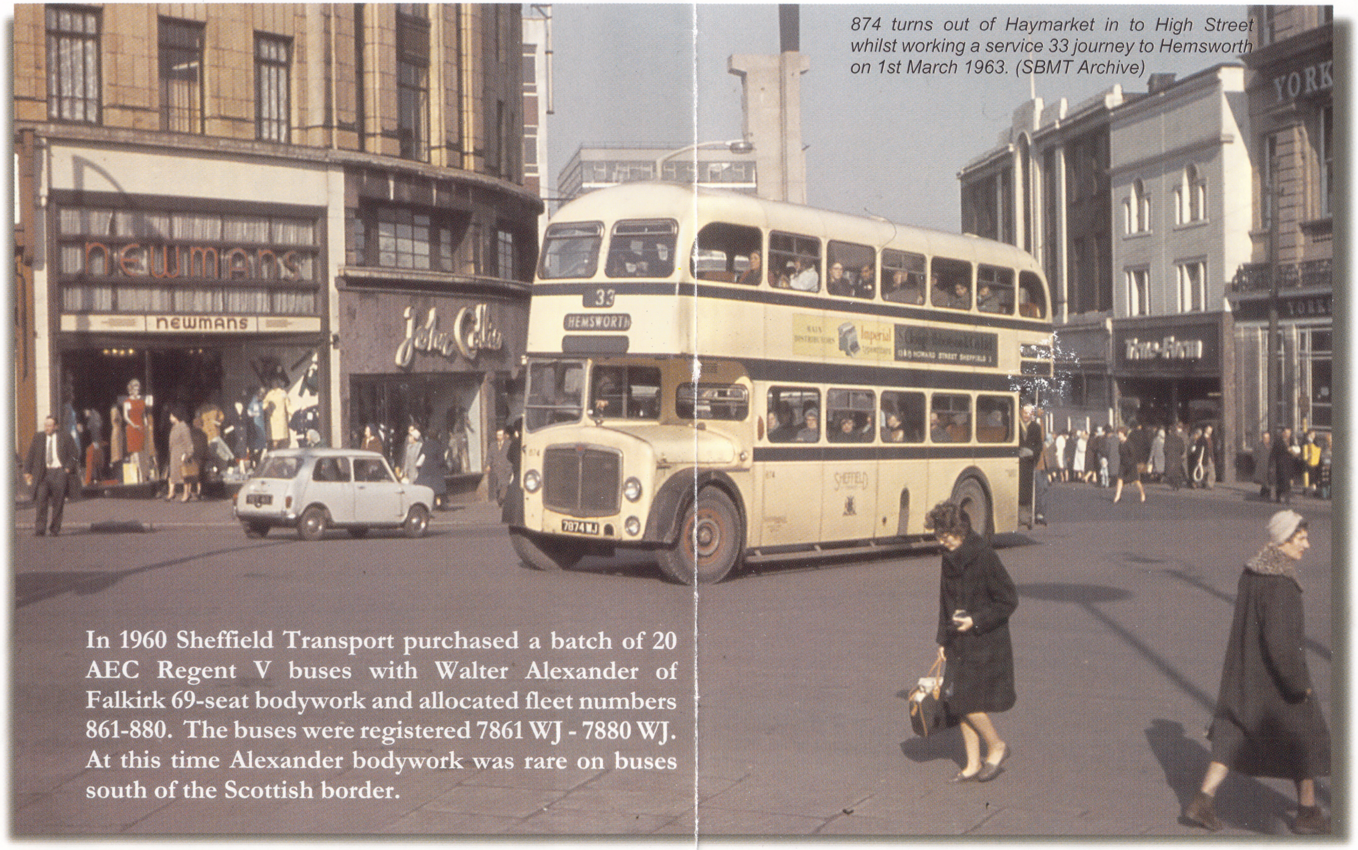
AEC ALEXANDER GROUP

17
HILLSBOROUGH
FIRTH PARK
874 A
7874 WJ

874

7874 WJ

AEC REGENT V
AV590 9.6 LITRE
WALTER ALEXANDER - 69 SEATS
SHEFFIELD TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Entered service - 3rd April 1960
Withdrawn from service - 8th April 1976


newmans
newmans
33
HEMSWORTH
7874 WJ

874 turns out of Haymarket in to High Street whilst working a service 33 journey to Hemsworth on 1st March 1963. (SBMT Archive)

In 1960 Sheffield Transport purchased a batch of 20 AEC Regent V buses with Walter Alexander of Falkirk 69-seat bodywork and allocated fleet numbers 861-880. The buses were registered 7861 WJ - 7880 WJ. At this time Alexander bodywork was rare on buses south of the Scottish border.

No. 874 entered service on the 3rd April 1960 on bus routes 33 and 75 which were a direct replacement for the Sheffield Lane Top to Meadowhead tram service. In later years 874 also operated on routes 17, 60 and 95 that took in some of the steepest hills in Sheffield.

95
INTAKE
VERNONS ½ MILLION

The batch of buses gave good service to the citizens of Sheffield but by 1976 they had become time expired. Over the next two years the buses were withdrawn and whilst a handful were sold for further use most went to the breakers yard.

Following withdrawal from service on 8th April 1976, 874 was purchased by the AEC Alexander Group being one of the last rear entrance buses in service in Sheffield.

The vehicle is a fine example of the "traditional" British double-deck bus, with its front mounted engine and open platform at the rear, in the 21st century an increasingly rare site. Her original Sheffield Transport livery of cream and azure blue also receives favourable comments wherever she goes. The other members of the class, that saw further service with other operators, also eventually went for scrap which leaves No. 874 as the sole survivor.

Other class members were not so fortunate as 874, all eventually ending up, like No. 865, in the scrap yard.

"Retirement" for 7874 WJ has proved to be a busy time. During the summer months the vehicle is exhibited at many rallies and other events. 874 has travelled to most areas of the UK as far afield as Inverness and Southampton, but particularly near to home the bus attracts a good deal of interest at local shows and vehicle rallies.

One of the Group's proudest moments was in 2001 when we were asked to transport the world renowned RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team from the RNLI Gala to their plane at Sheffield Airport, the same role was performed again in 2002.

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In March 2004 874 was featured on the front cover of "Buses" magazine probably the greatest achievement in our 28-year history.

We are now looking forward to 2010 when 874 will celebrate her Golden Jubilee!